

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) All the Major Port Trust Boards have already resolved to roll back the age of retirement in major ports with a view to reduce their excess manpower and operational expenditure. The Government has also approved these resolutions. The date of effect of roll back of retirement age in respect of each of the major Ports is as under :—

S. No.	Name of Port	Date of effect for rolling back the retirement age.
1.	Mumbai Port Trust	31.3.2000
2.	Tuticorin Port Trust	30.6.2000
3.	New Mangalore Port Trust	30.9.2000
4.	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	30.11.2000
5.	Calcutta Port Trust	31.12.2000
6.	Paradeep Port Trust	31.1.2001
7.	Kandla Port Trust	31.1.2001
8.	Chennai Port Trust	3.1.2001
9.	Cochin Port Trust	31.3.2001
10.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust	31.3.2001
11.	Mormugao Port Trust	31.5.2001

Amendment to the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act

*145. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently cleared some amendments to the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act in order to boost the development of an inland water transport system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when they are proposed to be submitted to Parliament for approval;

(c) whether the waterways on which the inland water transport system is likely to be started initially have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the modalities for running the water transport services are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed amendments are aimed at giving statutory status to the IWAI so as to empower it to borrow and mobilise funds from the market by raising bonds, enlarging its role to enter into commercial/joint ventures to encourage private investment in IWAI Sector, enabling it to bring in more professionalism by appointing outside professionals as members of the Authority, making provision for regulating the procedure as to the manner in which decision would be taken in the meetings of the Authority and specifying the qualifications of the members of the Authority. The Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament during the current session.

(c) Yes, Sir. In fact, inland water transport already takes place on these waterways:

- (d)(i) These are National Waterways No. 1 : The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia (1620 kms);
- (ii) National Waterways No.2 : The Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 kms); and
- (iii) National Waterways No. 3 : The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (205 kms.).

(e) Water Transport service exists in three National Waterways and in many other waterways such as waterways in Goa, Maharashtra etc. and to that extent, the modalities are already in place with the announcement of the IWT policy by the Government the IWT services in the National Waterways are bound to increase in terms of number of vessels and the cargo carried through water transport services.

Stagnation in steel production

*146. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of steel got stagnated both in public and private sectors for the last five years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to expand the production in the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans;

(d) whether there is decrease in global steel production in the last decade having its effect of India; and